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KITTENS BACK HOME AFTER SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

SEE
PAGE
FIVE

WHITE COATS BACK TO HELP PATIENTS IDENTIFY DOCS

TWO THIRDS OF PATIENTS DID NOT KNOW IF THEY HAD SEEN A DOCTOR

By NICK SPOORS
Chief Reporter
nick.spoors@jpress.co.uk

NGH to bring back white coats after patients did not realise they had seen a doctor

Some doctors at Northampton General Hospital will be asked to don their white coats again after worries that they cause infections were dismissed.

The return of the traditional medical garb to Northampton wards comes after two in three NGH patients said they did not know whether they had seen a doctor.

As a result, and to boost patients' understanding of their hospital stay, junior doctors will have to wear the coats by the end of the year. Dr Michael Cusack, the hospital's medical director, stated in the latest board papers: "It is clear that many staff do not introduce themselves - or if they do, do

not explain their role. Quite a number of patients also are confused by so many different people asking the same questions; we clearly have work to do to assist patients so that they understand who all the staff are and what they are there to do."

When the Department of Health produced guidance on dress code known as the 'bare below the elbow' policy in 2007, white coats became obsolete for medical staff.

But Dr Cusack said there had been no direct evidence that this reduced hospital infection rates.

It has, however, "inadvertently contributed to a medical workforce that can look unprofessional", he said.

Foundation Year 1 doctors will be provided with white coats at induction starting from August, with all doctors-in-training expected to be wearing them in patient-facing areas by the end of 2015.



Northampton General Hospital doctors model the coats that will become compulsory for those in training by December 2015

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The kittens returned home on Tuesday

Owner's delight as stolen kittens are returned home

By PAUL LYNCH
Reporter
paul.lynch@jpress.co.uk

The owner of four kittens stolen during a burglary at her Northampton home has spoken of her "absolute joy" after she was reunited with her beloved pets.

Simone Ensor, 54, was left distraught by the theft on July 15 from their home in Wootton and, at one point, had resigned herself to thinking she may never see them again.

But after an appeal through social media and a police investigation, the kittens were discovered at a house in St James.

The kittens came home last week and are now back safe with their mum.

Mrs Ensor said it was "absolutely fantastic news".

"The policeman phoned me to tell me they had found them. He said that everyone at the station was over the moon that they had found them and that they were able to return my kittens," she said.

"Can you believe it? Can

you believe that I have got my kittens back? It is absolutely fantastic."

"To be honest, this time yesterday I was in despair, it was my worst day. I am a really optimistic person but yesterday I thought I might not see them again.

"Now I will hopefully be able to sleep again – I haven't slept properly since they were taken.

"I want to thank all the people who shared the story, read it in the paper and supported me. I also want to thank our wonderful police, they have

been fantastic," Mrs Ensor added.

The kittens are all back safely at home and are being looked after by their mum.

"Mum is a little bit shell-shocked but they are all together and she has washed them and is sitting looking over them.

"I am a little bit concerned about one of them, she is limping and I will take her to the vet tomorrow to check her over," she added.

Two men and one woman have been arrested on suspicion of burglary.

Final phase of work starts on Abington Street

The final phase of work to allow traffic to drive along a section of Abington Street has begun but claims it has been "a real success for the town" have been disputed.

Planters and new seating will be installed on the controversial £6m scheme which first opened to the public before Christmas.

Councillor Tim Hadland, Northampton Borough Coun-

cil's cabinet member for regeneration, enterprise and planning, said the move to bring back traffic to that area had been a success.

He said: "Reopening Abington Street has been a real success for our town. We have listened to businesses and helped breathe new life into a part of the town centre that had been in decline.

"Every day sees more cars

taking advantage of the free parking or using the dropping off bays, bringing more shoppers and encouraging businesses to open in empty units. This is good for the town centre and for all of us."

Leader of the Labour group on the council, Councillor Danielle Stone, did not agree.

She said: "I can't see there has been any advantage in re-opening Abington Street. It

was an extremely costly and wasteful exercise that has produced no benefit. It just hasn't happened. They dug up a perfectly good surface that should have been recycled. Instead it was all broken up to be used for infilling."

Work on the second phase will take place over a number of evenings, and will see the road closed between 6pm to 11pm every weekday.

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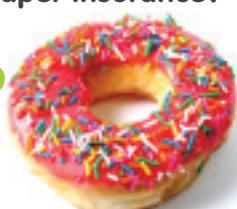
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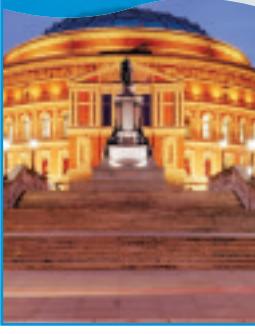
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Staff at A&E departments in Northamptonshire have reported the busiest start ever to the summer period, with NGH seeing more than 300 a day.

Hospitals in Northamptonshire are seeing up to 520 patients a day as the NHS warns against unwarranted hospital visits.

Doctors and nurses in county A&Es have recorded their busiest-ever summer, without the usual drop-off in attendees during warmer weather.

At Northampton General Hospital, more than 300 patients a day are now being seen in their A&E department, with KGH seeing on average 220 A&E patients a day.

A spokeswoman said: "These high numbers are causing great pressure on the local hospitals and the increase in demand for services is a challenge not only for our hospitals but also for our whole health and social care community. Visits to GPs also go up at this time of year."

NHS Nene and NHS Corby are encouraging people to be aware of how the warm summer months can have an effect on them so they can be prepared for minor illnesses and ailments.

They want to hammer home the message that A&E is for people with a life-threatening emergency such as a heart attack, stroke or a serious accident.

Dr Tom Evans, a GP and clinical executive director at NHS Nene, said: "If people do feel ill or sustain a minor in-

jury, they can get quick and convenient treatment through self care.

"Having a well-stocked medicine cabinet of items such as pain relief, anti-histamines, oral rehydration salts, anti-diarrhoea tablets, indigestion treatment and sun-screen can help protect you this summer".

If your symptoms persist, then NHS 111 is also available 24/7 if urgent medical help or advice is needed or you may need to book a GP appointment.



Teaser images of Chilli Village, a rustic-styled new restaurant complex in Wellingborough Road, have been released

Autumn opening for Chilli Village

A rustic-style new restaurant "complex" in Northampton is to open in autumn, offering Mediterranean-inspired cuisine with a twist.

Chilli Village, in Wellingborough Road, is promising punters a choice of six individual restaurants, live entertainment and a shisha lounge, all under the same roof, when it opens its doors later this year.

Workers have been on site at the large building, once home to the buffet-style Fusion Restaurant, since November, installing oak beams,

wooden flooring and hundreds of individually sourced antique ornaments.

A spokesman for the new restaurant owners said: "All of the restaurants are going to be quite different. People will have the opportunity to visit each one and feel like they are in a different place each time."

"We don't want it just to be a place where you go for a meal, it is a place to relax and enjoy and be entertained."

Chilli Village will offer a range of cuisine including Moroccan and Arabic-inspired dishes, barbecue grill and buf-

fet. "People don't often know where to go on a night out," the spokesman added. "But people will be spoilt for choice here."

Its predecessor, the Fusion Buffet, closed its doors last year, but during its heyday boasted 52,000 visitors a year according to its owners back in 2012. The Chilli Village is set to have a radically different look inside, and the venue will also have rooms available for hire for functions and parties.

So far the new venue's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/ChilliVillageNorthampton has received 1,000 'likes'.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 10 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his

approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for,

which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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The logo for Age Partnership features a stylized graphic element resembling a flame or a leaf with blue and yellow curves. To the right of this graphic, the word "Age" is written in a blue serif font, and "Partnership" is written in a larger, bold blue sans-serif font. Below "Partnership", the words "Retirement Specialists" are written in a smaller blue sans-serif font.

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Dragon racers raise oar-some £30,000

More teams than ever took part in the 12th annual Rotary Dragon Boat Festival, raising an estimated £30,000 for charity.

Dragon Boat chairman Paul Simpson said 46 teams took part in the festival, which was held at Billing Aquadrome, a new venue for the event.

"It was a fantastic day.

"With a change of venue you are always a bit apprehensive but it went really well

and the teams enjoyed it," he said.

"It made a much better spectacle for the crowd and the teams used the marina rather than an overgrown riverside."

"I think we took Billing Aquadrome by surprise at the size of the event!"

The eventual winners were a team from Hewlett & Sons.

Mr Simpson added: "I am hoping that we will have raised more than £30,000 for char-

ity but it is now all down to the teams collecting their sponsorship money."

The money will be split between the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance and Rotary charities.

Organisers are already looking to next year and entry forms will be going out in September.

For more details, visit the website www.rotarydragons.org.uk/



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Strictly stars line up for sixth show

BY RUTH SUPPLE

Editor, Image Magazine
ruth.supple@ipress.co.uk

A well known cookery author, councillor and hairdresser were among those swapping their normal day jobs for dance shoes at the launch of this year's Strictly Northampton.

Now in its sixth year and having raised hundreds of thousand pounds for charity, this year's contest will be taking place at Derngate on Saturday, November 21.

Step by Step Dance School of Henry Street, Northampton, has taken over the running of the show, which has previously been run in conjunction with the Chronicle & Echo and BBC Northampton. The headline sponsor for the charity, which is again Cynthia Spencer Hospice, is Aspers Casino. The launch took place at



Some of the contestants and dancers from this year's Strictly Northampton show to be held at Royal & Derngate theatre on Saturday, November 21.

Aspers Casino in Commercial Street, Northampton, where the willing volunteers were introduced to their fellow contestants for the first time and had a chance to shake some moves on the dance floor with the professional and semi-professional dancers. Step by Step founder and former dance champion Andrzej Mialkowski led the contestants through a taster session, teaching them some basic steps. So far, Mr Mialkowski and Step by Step dancers have

helped raise more than £500,000 for the various Strictly events they stage across Northamptonshire, Warwickshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire.

"It will be an amazing show," said Mr Mialkowski. "We are having around 20 to 24 contestants taking part this year. There will be a great opening and close to the show and I am really looking forward to it and raising more money for Cynthia Spencer Hospice."

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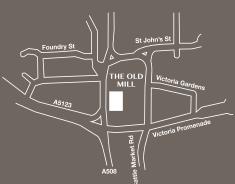
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Enterprise zone is an 'example to rest of UK'

By PAUL LYNCH
Reporter
paul.lynch@jpress.co.uk

Political powers in Northampton could bid to expand the town's Enterprise Zone following the local growth minister's announcement that the Government is inviting fresh bids.

The Waterside Enterprise Zone was created in 2011, offering favourable business rates and relaxed planning regulations to businesses moving to the 300-acre area along the River Nene and Sixfields.

But the announcement by minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse, James Wharton, during a visit to Northampton means it is likely town leaders will apply to expand it further.

Mr Wharton officially opened the next round of bidding for new Enterprise Zones across the UK, adding that any of the country's existing 24 zones would also be able to bid



Minister for Local Growth and the Northern Powerhouse, James Wharton, during the visit to Northampton

to expand. He said: "With this newround of Enterprise Zones even more areas and businesses will be able to benefit from the support they bring.

"Onlythe very best bids will succeed, but this is a chance for council leaders and businesses to make their case and secure a real boost to the local economy."

This bidding round means Northamptonshire Local Enterprise Partnership, made up of a body of town leaders, could bid to either expand the Waterside zone or to create a new

one. Mr Wharton said "there is nothing stopping them" bidding, adding that the Waterside zone has been one of the most successful in the country, creating about 1,100 jobs so far with firms such as Cosworth and, soon, the University of Northampton relocating to the area.

"This is one of the best examples in the country of an Enterprise Zone that is getting it right," he said.

"We want other people now to learn from the Northampton experience."

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You wouldn't buy any of

them for purely practical reasons; BMW makes much less costly cars that will fit family duties much better.

The range grows a little more tempting with a host of upgrades aimed at making the cars a bit more economical, look a little sharper and feel and act more like luxury machines they already were.

Styling changes are so subtle only the owner of an old one is likely to notice, confined to modest reworkings of front and rear metalwork and lights and different alloy wheels. Inside, there is even more leath-

er than before, along with flashes of high gloss black.

What BMW calls ConnectedDrive is now standard. This includes navigation and infotainment, keeps the driver informed about traffic problems and can even reserve your hotel room.

Under the bonnet, small tweaks have produced a bit more economy from the diesel engine and smaller of the three petrol engines offered. The latter trio now have a loud button that adds an edge to the exhaust note when you're feeling a little sportif.



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13/13 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI 5Dr	13/13 Vauxhall Astra 2.0 CDTi SRI 5Dr
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SPORT

Tom may get New deal at Town

Defender playing his part in pre-season after being released

FOOTBALL

Chris Wilder is leaving the door open for a possible Cobblers comeback for Tom Newey.

Newey, who was released by the club at the end of last season, came off the bench during the second half of Saturday's 3-0 pre-season win at Brackley Town.

He has been working his way back to fitness following the ankle injury that blighted his final few months at Sixfields.

Newey initially joined Cobblers on loan from Oxford United last November and then signed a deal until the end of the season after having his Kassam Stadium contract terminated two months later.

He acted as cover for their first-choice left-back Evan Horwood, but only made seven appearances, with his last coming against Luton Town in March.

However, with Horwood currently injured and only summer signing David Buchanan to call upon, Cobblers will continue to monitor Newey's situation.

"Tom has got to get himself back fit," Wilder said.

"He was with us last year and it was really unfortunate that he rolled his ankle."

"He plays his games does Tom. I had him at Oxford and he didn't miss many."

"He was unfortunate he was out for quite a while with that bad ankle injury but he came back, rehabbed over the summer and he's just training with us at the moment."

"We'll see how it goes."

Meanwhile, Rod McDonald has signed a deal with the Cobblers after impressing while on trial in pre-season.

The former Hereford United and Telford player becomes Northampton's seventh signing of the summer, and Wilder says the player has earned his deal.

The 23-year-old has been training with the Cobblers since they reported back to work in late June, and has played a part in all of the pre-season friendlies.

McDonald is the left-footed central defender that Wilder has been targeting, and the Cobblers boss said: "Rod has been outstanding and has done everything we have asked of him."

"He has come into the club and we have had a good look at him and we have had a look at him against different opposition."

"We think Rod has potential to definitely add to us, and to make us better and I am sure he will do that."



SIGNING ON Rod McDonald has penned a deal at Cobblers after impressing while on trial during pre-season

PICTURE: SHARON LUCEY

Saints learning curve is aiding Clark's bid

CALUM CLARK believes he has developed hugely during his time at Saints - and he is now bidding to show how far he's come by starring for England.

The passion-fuelled flanker is currently training with the national squad as preparations for the World Cup on home soil continue.

Clark is part of a 45-man training squad and will face competition from the likes of club-mate Tom Wood, James Haskell and captain Chris Robshaw for a place in

CRICKET

England's first 15.

But the Saints star has given himself the best possible chance of making the cut for the World Cup, having shone for his club last season.

Clark won both the supporters' and players' player of the year award at the end of a campaign in which he was clearly the stand-out squad member at Franklin's Gardens.

And it is just reward for

Clark's progression, both on and off the field.

"I've developed a lot personally at Saints," said the 26-year-old, who was banned for 32 weeks in 2012 for hyper-extending the arm of Leicester Tigers hooker Rob Hawkins during the LV= Cup final.

"I've worked hard on myself, and I'd like to think I'm slowly starting to see the rewards."

"When I was younger, I probably misunderstood (the mental approach). You

often think that being in this sport is about getting up for it, getting fired up and things like that."

"The more I've learned, it is about not concerning yourself with anything other than what will help you play the game and have a positive effect on it."

"It isn't about one-on-one battles or getting one over on your opposite man. It's about doing what you can at any given moment on the pitch to influence the game in the best way possible."

"That mental shift has really helped, moving away from the focus on emotional things and onto processes."

"I was happy with the way I went throughout last season. It was unfortunate I didn't get a chance to show that (with England), but again that is something I can't control."

"I can control the training I do, how hard I work and the intent I bring to training, weight sessions and everything else."

Uncapped forward Clark, who moved to Northampton in 2010, is now pouring everything he has into those training sessions in a bid to impress head coach Stuart Lancaster.

And the Saints man said: "I really relish the hard work. It's something I love as a component of the game."

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London Road (15)	4 Aug
The Overnight (15)	5-6 Aug
Amy (15)	7-13 Aug
Love & Mercy (12A)	13 Aug 10.30am & 7.30pm
Ted 2 (15)	16-18 Aug
Touch of Evil (12)	20 Aug 10.30am & 7.30pm
Southpaw (15)	21-25 Aug
The Pyramid Texts	25 Aug
13 Minutes (15)	26 & 27 Aug
The Legend of Barney Thomson (15)	27-29 Aug
Marshlands (15)	31 Aug & 1 Sept
Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation	2-5 Sep
Gemma Bovery (15)	13-17 Sep
45 Years (15)	17-21 Sep
The Man from Uncle (12A)	23-25 Sep

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Sat 10.30am & Daily at 2pm unless stated

Minions (PG)	24 Jul - 2 Aug
Song of The Sea (PG)	3-8 Aug
Dr Proctor's Fart Powder	7-13 Aug
Thomas & Friends (U)	14-17 Aug
Inside Out (U)	18-27 Aug
Pixels (12A)	28 Aug - 3 Sep

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